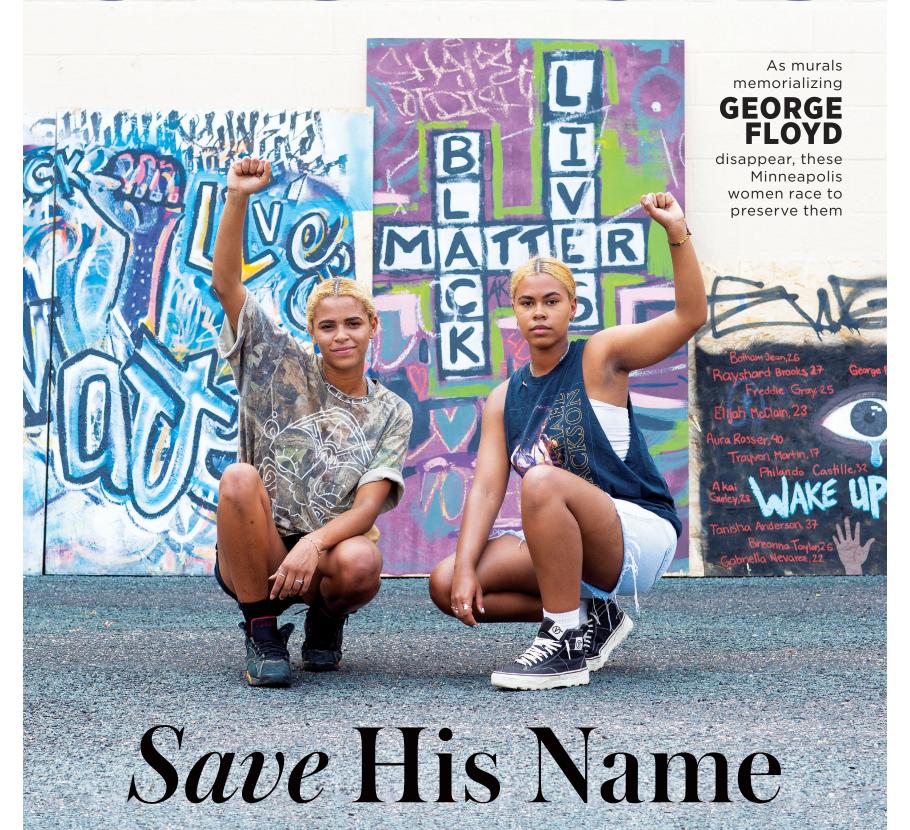
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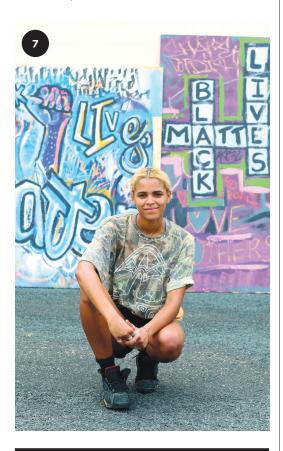


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As murals memorializing George Floyd disappear, these Minneapolis women race to preserve them By Emily Cassel

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THE SHORTLIST



THE STAT SHEET

34%

MN COVID community transmission rate Monday, a sign the virus is spreading beyond ability to track it

\$55,000

Funds raised in three days to get prolific Minnesota actor James Hong a star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

61 mph

Winds recorded at MSP International Airport during Sunday night/ Monday morning storm

17%

Drop in state exports in June due to coronavirus. compared to June 2019

"After the uprising I've never been more proud to live in Minneapolis."

- Reader Becca Kravchenko responds to "Report: People still live in Minneapolis" at citypages.com.

PLAY BALL?

FOR WHATEVER REASON, we can't stop thinking about what All-Star Nationals reliever Sean Doolittle said to reporters last month about bringing team sports back: "Sports are like the reward of a functioning society." By pretty much every metric, the U.S. has failed to contain COVID; last week, Anthony Fauci said our outbreak is the worst in the world. Correspondingly, the Big 10 announced Tuesday it's canceling football this fall... but some teams are pushing to participate, with Nebraska's coach saying they'd even play outside the conference. Functioning society be damned

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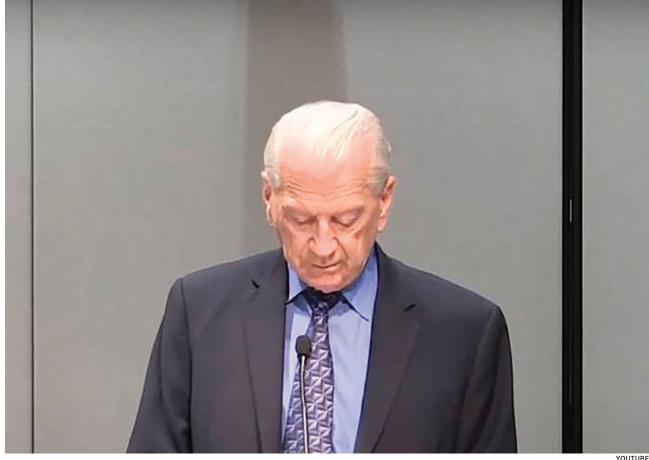
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8 things ONLY people from MINNESOTA sav



DOCTORED FACTS

Minnetonka schools head: 'COVID is spreading' outside of schools'

BY MIKE MULLEN

he superintendent of Minnetonka Public Schools is Dr. Dennis Peterson. To be clear: He's not that kind of doctor. Peterson's Ph.D. from the University of Colorado is in educational administration, which he's done at Minnetonka's school district (current student population: 10,900) since 2001.

Last week, Peterson introduced his recommendations to the school board for reopening the district under a "hybrid" model, one that allows for some in-person teaching and some distance learning.

Peterson stated no student should be forced to attend school in person, and that some teachers won't want to come back, and others "may not be able to come back, due to their own health risks."

Those who can, and do, will experience the unique challenge of trying to teach distance learning-a skill most would've tried for the first time ever last

spring-and in-person classes, simultaneously. Fun!

While Minneapolis and St. Paul schools will stick with distance learning to start the semester, the hybrid model is popular in the suburbs—at least among those calling the shots. Most large suburban districts are planning to reopen on a hybrid basis, the Star Tribune reports.

Let's hope the people in charge are slightly better informed than Peterson, who seemed to question the worth of sending students home in the first place.

"COVID is spreading outside the schools," he said, stating the obvious, but then observing that this one preventative measure did not work to stop coronavirus altogether.

"The closure in the spring was intended to keep school-age children from infecting grandma and grandpa, and vulnerable parents, and other family members. How did that work? We still had thousands of grandmas and

grandpas get it, and get ill, and many passed away," Peterson said. "The system failed to recognize that students who are not in school go to other places, and that others in our society were not careful about their interactions with other people.... We know for sure that no student got it from school, because they are not in school."

Rather than simply condemn risky behavior taking place outside the school district's control, Peterson sounds a little regretful. If people keep spreading the virus and old people keep right on dying, why should schools be the only ones doing the right thing?

He then made a vague reference to "thousands of deaths and other healthrelated issues" caused by students' staying home, and said: "The research is clear that far more students suffered from the closure than from the coronavirus."

Yes, doctor. Do you think the reason students might not have suffered as much from the coronavirus is because... schools were closed?

Peterson continued that school-age kids are "not as impacted by the virus, and are not good carriers of the virus," calling recent evidence to the contrary "just unnerving" and "not validated by officials."

That's unless you count Dr. Anthony

Fauci (many do!), who said late last month that children as young as 10 seem just as capable of transmitting the virus as adults. Then again, Fauci said that in an interview with MSNBC, and Peterson, for one, is not so sure about this whole journalism industry.

"It feels like sometimes the media tends to emphasize those studies that scare people, and increase concerns about the threat of the virus," he said. "Media has a mission to encourage people to stay away from each other, and to stay away from businesses and schools."

We do?

(We do not.)

Curiously, Peterson added that healthcare workers had continued working in person-because they... had to?-while neglecting to mention that as many as 200,000 had contracted the virus, and as many as 1,300 may have died.

Just before moving on to finally explaining the details of his hybrid plan, Peterson threw in one last sweeping statement.

"There are probably more risks to our students and their families from the flu than there are from the virus."

This is sort of a throwback claim, as few have even tried comparing coronavirus and flu these since, say, March. But, for Peterson's sake, here's National Geographic:

"Using a more sophisticated calculation called the infection-fatality rate, paired with the past few months' worth of data, the latest best estimates show that COVID-19 is around 50 to 100 times more lethal than the seasonal flu, on average. This means that the U.S. and other countries seeing case surges need to brace for a very deadly summer and autumn if tactics don't change."

We're still in the middle of that deadly summer, including in Minnesota, where 17 more people who'd tested positive for COVID-19 were reported dead over the weekend, raising the total to 1,657 to date, among a total case count of nearly 61,000. In the most recent data, per Minnesota Public Radio, the age bracket with the highest rate of increase is 20-29. Second is 0-19, the group Minnetonka and other school districts will soon welcome back.

"I realize that every point I make will probably have someone who disagrees with it," Peterson said.

As it happens, one of those someones was Denise Specht, president of the Education Minnesota teachers union.

"This administrator should be reported to the MN Dept of Health. His words and actions are dangerous," she tweeted.

We'll have to see if Peterson's optimism survives the month of August-or worse, if it's contagious.



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Save His Name

As murals memorializing George Floyd disappear, these Minneapolis women race to preserve them

BY EMILY CASSEL

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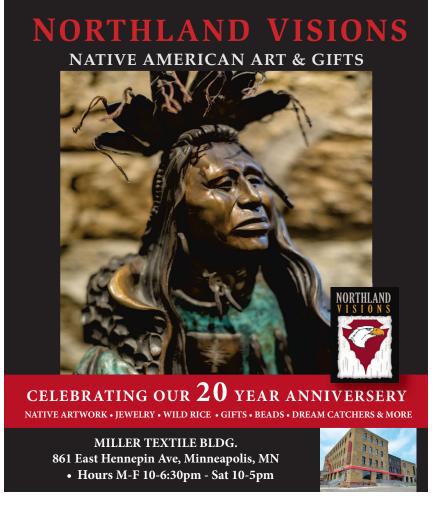
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n the days that followed George Floyd's murder, Minneapolis and St. Paul boarded up. A forest of plywood covered windows as business owners shut their doors, prepped for unrest, crossed their fingers, and hoped for the best.

It could've made the metro feel closed-off, abandoned, even condemned. It didn't, because the people of the Twin Cities—from small children wielding paintbrushes to bona fide graffiti artists—saw in the boards temporary canvases, and covered them with art. Bright, bold lettering screamed, "Justice for George," "Black Lives Matter," "Dismantle Systemic Fascism." Floyd's portrait was plastered on buildings from Uptown to the Midway.

"Our city *also* looks like this," one City Pages editor tweeted, challenging the narrative that rioters had turned Minneapolis into a bombed-out husk. It might have been burnt down and boarded up, but it was more colorful than ever.

Then, as the unrest settled and businesses opened back up, the boards started to disappear. A few weeks after the uprising, Kenda Zellner-Smith remembers a co-worker's casual remark that nearby plywood murals were coming down.

"That day, on my lunch break, I ducked away on my phone and made the Instagram account," Zellner-Smith says. "Not even really thinking anything about it, I was just like, 'I want to save the art, and we need to have this conversation."

The Instagram account is @savetheboards_mpls, where Zellner-Smith started posting pieces that caught her eye in midJune. In her captions, she'd address impor-

When she started Save the Boards, Zellner-Smith wasn't planning to become a grassroots conservationist. She'd just moved and started a new role at work, and she didn't have a background in the arts, or preservation, or history.

But interest in her movement grew, and the account quickly amassed followers. (It has nearly 2,000 now, less than two months after she made her first post.)

"I want to save the art, and we need to have this conversation."

tant questions about the art: How can we keep it in the community? How can we preserve it? How do we make sure it remains accessible to Black and brown people?

"When the art was first up it was healing for me. And it's not any more, only because I'm hyper-aware of it disappearing," Zellner-Smith says. "I'm very aware of groups of people trying to take it and not make sure it's still here for the Black community."

After she shared a few posts with ideas for keeping the art accessible, Paper Salon in south Minneapolis's Corcoran neighborhood reached out via Instagram. They were removing their murals and wanted to know if Zellner-Smith had any interest in picking them up.

She did. And after she posted about that first collection, more and more people started reaching out. Soon she was regularly borrowing her dad's truck and fillKenda (left) and Quinn Zellner-Smith at their storage space in early August

ing it with plywood, bringing it back to her parents' place. Walking around their yard in early August, she guesses she has about 20 on their property, with another 40 or so in storage. She's done dozens of pickups herself, with occasional help from friends, family, and roommates.

Zellner-Smith isn't the only one collecting and protecting boards. She recently connected with Leesa Kelly of Memorialize the Movement, another young Black woman who's been gathering boards and getting them to the African American Heritage Museum and Gallery in north Minneapolis.

"I just felt so hopeful seeing the boards, seeing the plywood murals coming up, seeing the art around 38th and Chicago," Kelly says. "I thought, 'If we could use this to tell the story of what happened here this summer, we could really make an impact and keep this movement going."

Kelly raised just shy of \$5,000, which she donated to the museum in June. She and Zellner-Smith have since become conservation collaborators, texting ideas



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In addition to collecting murals, Leesa Kelly raised nearly \$5,000 for the African American Heritage Museum and Gallery.

back and forth, seeing if one can pick up a mural for the other, and figuring this thing out as they've found themselves in the position of board stewards.

"It's like, we don't know what we're doing, but cool," Zellner-Smith laughs.

"That's really true!" adds Kelly. "We're both like, is this a thing we should be doing? Where do we go from here? I think for both of us, we did not expect this project to blow up the way that it did or be received so positively."

Zellner-Smith has lived on Minneapolis's south side her entire life; Kelly moved to the Twin Cities from Chicago in 2017, not long after the murder of Philando Castile.

"It fills me with so much sadness, because you would not think Minne-

shouldn't be profitable in any capacity." At this point, if she sees boards lying around, she grabs them, photographs them, and tries to find the artist. "I'm saving anything I see on the ground, or I deem a board that doesn't have a home. It's a fight for

And sometimes it really is a fight. A few weeks ago, she and a friend pulled up to the Hi-Lake Shopping Center near the epicenter of the riots, where some of their favorite pieces were and where many of the boards are already gone. While they flipped through a pile of boards in the back by a dumpster, a security guard came over and told them they were trespassing.

"It's a hunt," Zellner-Smith says. "And when you do find them, it's like finding a gem."

Kelly still goes out with the Jeep on occasion, but says that right now, it's more about maintaining relationships with busi-

"It's a hunt. And when you do find them, it's like finding a gem."

apolis and St. Paul are the type of cities where this would happen because they're so progressive," Kelly says. "You see that like, it doesn't matter where you are, Black lives still don't matter to cops, and to a lot of people."

"People were just done," Zellner-Smith says. "To see it happen, again, on video, again, it was just like, when does it stop? When does one acknowledge what's really happening?"

And again, already, there's the worry that people are forgetting. As the boards disappear, so does the visual reminder of what Minneapolis went through. The two share concerns about where the art is going; Zellner-Smith says a number of people have been out taking pieces without a second thought about where and to whom they belong.

One artist recently reached out and said they wanted Save the Boards to have their work-but when they asked the business where their work was displayed about getting it back, they were directed to "some random white guy" who took it because he wanted to put it up. That artist is still trying to reclaim it. Zellner-Smith has encountered other people—often white—who've been collecting boards for "auctions" or fundraisers, though when she asks for specifics, their answers have been vague.

She thinks that shouldn't be allowed to happen; it's not what the boards are about.

"It's greedy, in a sense," Zellner-Smith says. "Black pain, trauma, and healing-it nesses that haven't taken the boards down yet and staying connected with the handful of other organizations-like Victoria Theater Arts Center and Springboard for the Arts-that have been collecting pieces. "Looking toward the future of what everyone's doing with their boards, and reminding them, softly, 'Hey, we want to make sure the only Black-owned museum in the state has an opportunity for this," she says.

Eventually, her hope is to have an exhibit at the African American Heritage Museum, but that's going to take some time to plan. The museum is small, and the boards are very much not. She doesn't want to cram a bunch of plywood and people together, so the show might happen later this year or sometime in 2021.

And beyond collecting and preserving the boards, Zellner-Smith is figuring out what making them accessible to the community means. One of her early ideas was to turn them into Little Free Libraries: "But that's not realistic. We live in Minnesota." Many of these murals are not painted on high-quality wood; people were hastily pulling materials out of musty basements at the last minute.

"I've had to transition from wanting the actual physical boards to be in the community permanently into: How can we value the life of the art, and then death of it, but still have it remain?"

What if instead, we built new Little Free Libraries, and artists who painted boards





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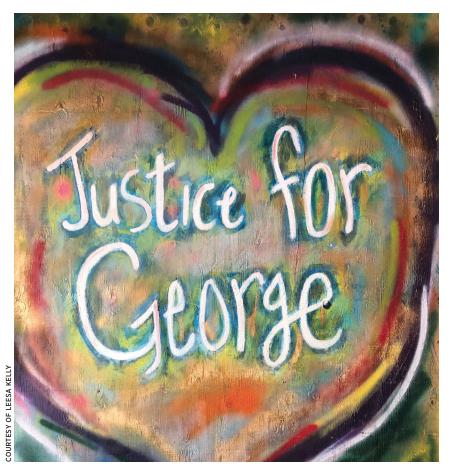
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memorializing George Floyd painted an outline—like a coloring book—then let people from the community paint them in? She's teamed up with the Stevens Square Community Organization, and they've agreed to help build three little libraries. Zellner-Smith hopes that in one, they'll have strictly Black literature; another could hold personal care items and hygiene products; the third could store nonperishable food items.

"Things that we can have accessible, and restock, and have right here in the community—and that will help with growth here, help anyone in need."

Another project in the works is to blow up photos of the murals into massive banners that could hang on, say, the Basilica of St. Mary, where they're widely visible and not so easily forgotten. There are so many photos of the murals; what about a digital archive? Is there a way to connect people who took pictures of pieces that have gone away since May and form a complete collection of the works that sprung up during that time? (A pair of professors at the University of St. Thomas are currently trying to do that with the George Floyd and Anti-Racist Street Art map.) Or maybe, businesses that don't need plywood protection anymore would be willing to display a decal in their window of the mural that was once there while the pieces themselves stayed protected in storage?

"It's hard because in time, they are going to start to wither away, no matter

how much we try to garnish and plaster them," Zellner-Smith says. "They're just not material that will last."

She imagines bringing the pieces outside once a year, on the anniversary of George Floyd's death, for a community-wide remembrance—"Not a celebration, but just making sure we remember what our city went through, what our community went through, what his family is going to go through for the rest of their lives." It could be an outdoor exhibition where the pieces are laid out like a map: Here's Hennepin you're walking down now; here's Lake Street. Black vendors and small-business owners would sell food and art.

"It adds a lot more value and significance to the pieces, I think, if in 10 years I could go to this show on May 25 with my kids," Zellner-Smith says. "Let's bring them out on his death anniversary. Let's honor his life, his legacy—and honor the uprising of Minneapolis that ignited the rest of the country and the world and made everyone listen."

"People are still out protesting. Kenda and I are doing this work. You've got all these organizations who have sprung up out of this—people like me and Kenda who were regular civilians working 9-to-5 jobs and going about our lives have stopped everything in support of this movement," Kelly adds. "That's really inspiring. That's really powerful. I'm honestly really surprised that it happened here, but I'm so proud to be a part of it."

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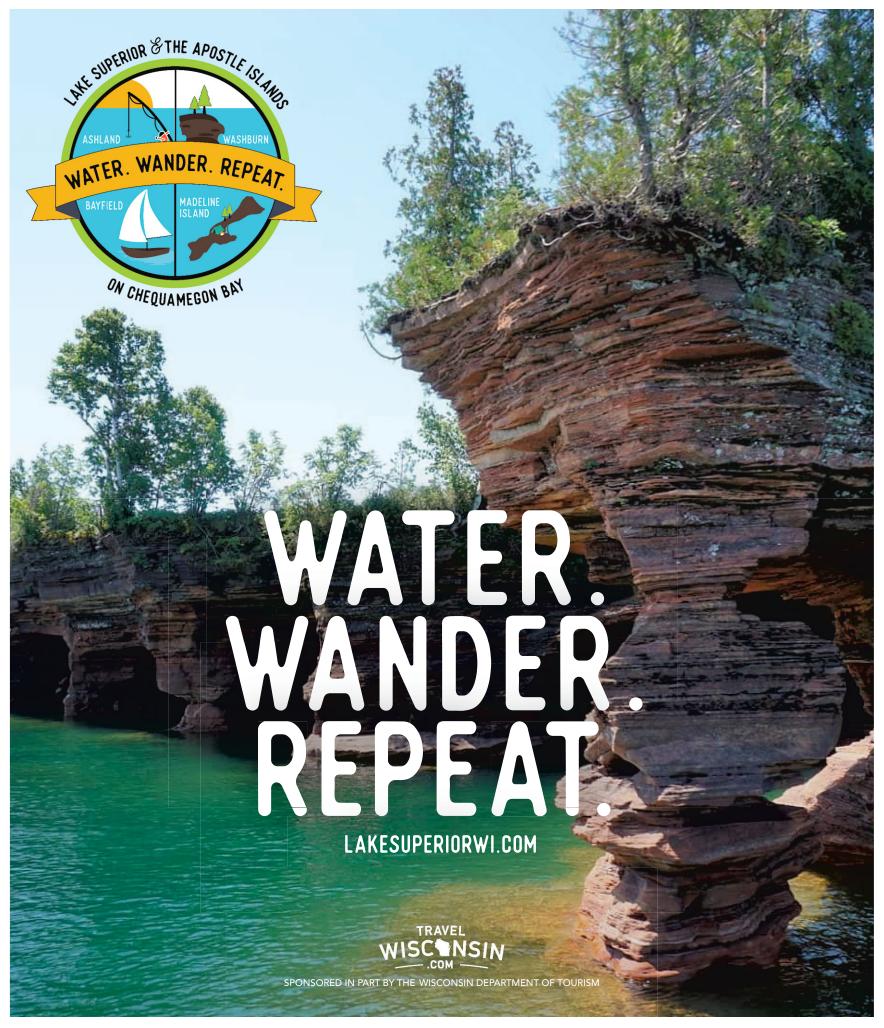
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OVID-19 has positively brutalized restaurants, which... isn't really something we need to tell you!

But here's a little bit of good news: Just a few weeks after Popol Vuh's COVID closure, the space will burst back to life-in a very on-the-nose fashion-with ViV!R. ("Vivir" is Spanish for "to live.")

A press release points to ViV!R having some shades of its predecessor, including a seasonal menu of "composed" Mexican small plates like chilaquiles and enmoladas. Popol Vuh chef and co-owner Jose Alarcon developed the menu here, too, and they'll continue hosting agave classes and focusing on Mexican wines (though on a very scaled-back level).

"Other than that and Jose's food, everything is pretty much an introduction of something new," Jami Olson, co-owner

BIENVENIDOS, VIV!R

A Mexican bakery, market, and small-plate space heads to Northeast

BY EMILY CASSEL

of ViV!R and the adjacent taco hot spot Centro, tells City Pages.

Like everything else in the time of COVID, opening a restaurant means rethinking the space, the service, and just what being a restaurant means. So while there will be a bit of Popol Vuh essence in ViV!R, it's an entirely independent animal.

"The biggest thing for me was wanting to flip the space and not making it feel like we're trying to force Popol Vuh to be something that it's not," Olson says.

Among the biggest changes (and biggest bummers)? The massive wood fire is gone. But it's a compromise that lets pastry chef Ngia Xiong work her magic; she'll join Alcaron on ViV!R's baked goods side, turning out a selection of conchas, cemitas, and polvorones.

At ViV!R, visitors can look forward to rotating empanadas and verduras, plus ceviches, salads, and sandwiches-all inspired by Mexico's casual market food, not the (exceptional) Mexican fine dining Alcaron brought to the Northeast neighborhood in 2018. And it'll be an all-day affair, with breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

ViV!R will also offer grab-and-go items and by-the-pound bulk foods from a new deli counter. And it will have a retail market with snacks and condiments (made in-house), and home goods (made by Northeast and Mexican artisans).

"We would have done it forever, if we could have," Olson says of Popol Vuh. "But now is the opportunity to create something that makes a lot more sense for the neighborhood and makes a lot more sense for the times."

Expect ViV!R to open sometime this fall. ViV!R, 1414 Quincy St. NE #2, Minneapolis; vivirmpls.com 🖽

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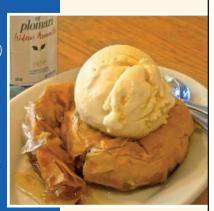
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VALLEYFAIR CANCELS ITS 2020 SEASON

The pandemic is providing enough thrills this season

BY JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

f you were planning on making the trek out to Valleyfair this summer for a ride on Excalibur or Power Tower, we regret to inform you that your dream is dead.

Last week, the Shakopee amusement park showed us that they care, announcing that their 2020 season is officially called off due to safety concerns.

"Although we have done our due diligence in developing a comprehensive safety plan in accordance with industry and public health standards, the continued uncertainty in our region surrounding COVID-19, as well as the diminishing number of calendar days left in the 2020 season, has brought us to the difficult decision to keep the park closed for the rest of the year," the release states.

Annual pass holders and folks with 2020 tickets can sort things out through the FAQ section of their website.

Amusement parks have struggled to figure out how to navigate the pandemic. Most major players in the industry—Disney, Six Flags, Cedar Point, Hersheypark—have either temporarily closed or delayed opening before returning with limited admission, shorter hours, and mask requirements.

Locally, people comfortable with riding rides during a plague outbreak can visit

Nickelodeon Universe at Mall of America, as it reopened this week after closing for five months.

As most festivals and concerts have either canceled or moved online, Valleyfair neighbor the Minnesota Renaissance Festival regularly proclaims on its Facebook page that it is indeed still on this summer, though the event dates have been moved back (Sept. 5-Oct. 4), and attendance will be limited to 250 at a time. (There were a lot of plagues during that era, as humans had no concept of sanitation or how diseases spread. So maybe they're going for some historical accuracy here?)

"It is our belief and hope that the amount of people testing positive, the severity of

the cases, and the advancements in treatment will trend in the correct direction in Minnesota and that Governor Walz will issue a new Executive Order resulting in significantly more people being permitted to attend outdoor events in Minnesota," states the organization in a hopeful Facebook post from late July.

As for Valleyfair, it plans to return in 2021 with a Charles Schulz celebration, new restrooms, and a lot of corn. That includes Corn Feast, an annual event featuring 30,000 pounds of free corn on the cob and corn eating competitions, plus the new Corn Cart building, "where guests can watch corn roasting and popping through giant glass windows."

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THIS THING LIVES NEAR YOU

Meet your neighbor, the bryozoan

BY JAY BOLLER

hotos of slippery, living blobs pulled from Minnehaha Creek have prompted Nextdoor users to ask: WTF is this? "Not sure what I'm looking at, slimy jellyfish-like," one puzzled

user wrote.

"It's squishy," another volunteered.

Turns out that slimy, jellyfish-like, squishy creature that resembles *Alien* eggs is the noble bryozoan, according to DNR aquatic invertebrate biologist

Gary Montz.
So, WTF, exactly, are bryozoans? Montz steered us toward a Minnesota Conservation Volunteer article he wrote just last month on that very subject.

Bryozoans are commonly called "moss animals," he writes, and they're actually collections of microscopic, ancient creatures known as zooids. What you see in the image above is the Voltronlike coalescing of thousands of 'em into one gelatinous bryozoan colony, which can grow to the size of a volleyball and attach itself to objects in the water—docks, branches, etc. The colonies are feasted on by snails, scuds, caddisflies, midges, and small fish; they set up shop

in shallower waters throughout Minnesota, typically no more than six feet deep.

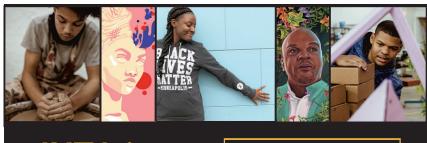
By late summer, bryozoans belch out darkly colored, winter-proof oval discs called statoblasts that can be transported via bird feathers. The following spring, those discs become new zooids and the cycle starts all over again.

"Leave the colonies alone and have a bit of wonder about the interesting life that is in our lakes and rivers."

What should one do if they encounter bryozoans in the wild?

"Nothing, really," Montz instructs. "Leave the colonies alone and have a bit of wonder about the interesting life that is in our lakes and rivers that many people overlook or don't know about."

Now you know!



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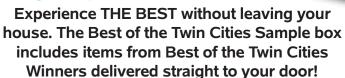
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Motivational speaker Les Brown says his mission in life is to help people become uncomfortable with their mediocrity. That same mission is suitable for many of you Rams, as well. And I suspect you'll be able to generate interesting fun and good mischief if you perform it in the coming weeks. Here's a tip on how to make sure you do it well: Don't use shame or derision as you motivate people to be uncomfortable with their mediocrity. A better approach is to be a shining example that inspires them to be as bright as you are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus musician and visual artist Brian Eno has a practical, down-to-earth attitude about making beautiful things, which he has done in abundance. He says that his goal is not to generate wonderful creations nonstop—that's not possible—but rather to always be primed to do his best when inspiration strikes. In other words, it's crucial to trielessly hone his craft, to make sure his skills are constantly at peak capacity. It hope you've been approaching your own labors of love with that in mind, Taurus, if you have, you're due for creative breakthroughs in the coming weeks. The diligent efforts you've invested in cultivating your talents are about to pay off. If, on the other hand, you've been a bit lazy about detail-oriented discipline, correct that problem now. There's still time to get yourself in top shape.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In his 2010 album My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, Gemini musician Kanye West confesses the decadent and hedonist visions that fascinate and obsess him. Personally, I'm not entertained by the particular excesses he claims to indulge in; they're generic and unoriginal and boring. But I bet that the beautiful dark twisted fantasies simmering in your imagination, Gemini, are more unique and intriguing. In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to spend quality time in the coming weeks diving in and exploring those visions in glorious detail. Get to know them better. Embellish them. Meditate on the feelings they invoke and the possibility that they have deeper spiritual meanings. (P.S. But don't act them out, at least not now.)

 CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Make all your decisions based on how hilarious it would be if you did it," advises Cancerian actor Aubrey Plaza. I wish it were that simple. How much more fun we might all have if the quest for amusement and laughter were among our main motivating principles, But no, I don't recommend that you always determine your course of action by what moves will generate the most entertainment and mirth. Having said that, though, I do suspect the next few weeks may in fact be a good time to experiment with using Plaza's formula.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In the dictionary, the first definition of "magic is "the art of producing Illusions as entertainment by the use of sleight of hand and deceptive devices." A far more interesting definition, which is my slight adjustment of an idea by occultar Aleister Crowley, doesn't appear in most dictionaries. Here it is: "Magic is the science and art of causing practical changes to occur in accordance with your will—under the rigorous guidance of love." According to my analysis of the astrological omes, the latter definition could and should be your specialty during the next four weeks.

YIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "The soul, like the moon, is new, and always new again," wrote 14th-century mystic poet Lalleswari. I will amend her poetic formulation, however. The fact is that the soul, unlike the moon, is always new in different ways; it doesn't have a predictable pattern of changing as the moon does. That's what makes the soul so mysterious and uncanny. No matter how devotedly we revere the soul, no matter how tenderly we study the soul, it's always beyond our grasp. It's forever leading us into unknown realms that teem with new challenges and delights. I limite you to honor and celebrate these truths in the coming weeks, Virgo. It's time to exult in the shiny dark riddles of your soul.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "I have one talent, and that is the capacity to be tremendously surprised," writes Libran author Diane Ackerman. I advise you to foster that talent, too, in the weeks ahead. If you're feeling brave, go even further. Make yourself as curious as possible. Deepen your aptitude for amazements and epiphanies. Cultivate an appreciation for revelations and blessings that arrive from outside your expectations. To the degree that you do these things, the wonderments that come your way will tend to be enlivening and catalytic; unpredictability will be fun and educational.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Author and theologian Frederick Buechner writes, "If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors. With our imagination as well as our eyes, we must see not just their faces but also the life behind and within their faces." The coming weeks will be prime time for you to heed Buechner's advice. Scorpio, You're in a phase when you'll have extra power to understand and empathize with others. Taking full advantage of that potential will serve your selfish aims in profound ways, some of which you can't imagine yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Refine your rapture," advised occultist Aleister Crowley. Now is an excellent time to take that advice. How might you go about doing it? Well, you could have a long conversation with your deep psyche—and see if you can plumb hidden secrets about what gives it sublime pleasure. You could seek out new ways to experience euphoria and enchantment—with an emphasis on ways that also make you smarter and healthier. You might also take inventory of your current repertoire of blissinducing strategies—and cultivate an enhanced capacity to get the most out of

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Are you ready to make the transition from slow, deep, subtle, and dark to fast, high, splashy, and bright? Are you interested in shifting your focus from behind the scenes to right up front and totally out in the open? Would it be fun and meaningful for you to leave behind the stellthy, smoldering mysteries and turn your attention to the sweet, blazing truths? All these changes can be yours—and more. To get the action started, jump up toward the sky three times, clicking your heels together during each mid-leap.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Greenland is a mostly autonomous territory within the nation of Denmark. In 2019, US President Donald Trump announced that his government was interested in buying the massive island, describing it as "a large real estate deal" that would add considerable strategic value to his country. A satirical story in *The New Yorker* subsequently claimed that Demmark responded with a counter-offer, saying it wasn't interested in the deal, but "would be interested in purchasing the United States in its entirety, with the exception of its government." I offer this as an example for you to be inspired by. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to flip the you to be inspired by. The conling weeks will be a ravorable time for you to flip the script, turn the tables, reverse the roles, transpose the narrative, and switch the rules of the game.

X PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Author Doris Lessing told us, "It is our stories that will recreate us." Whenever we're hurt or confused or demoralized, she suggested, we need to call on the imagination to conjure up a new tale for ourselves. "It is the storyteller, the dream-maker, the mythmaker, that is our phoenix," she believed. The fresh narratives we choose to relievent ourselves may emerge from our own dreams, meditations, or featened of these inhall flewer was freene believed to the consense had. fantasies. Or they might flow our way from a beloved movie or song or book. I suspect you're ready for this quest, Pisces. Create a new saga for yourself.

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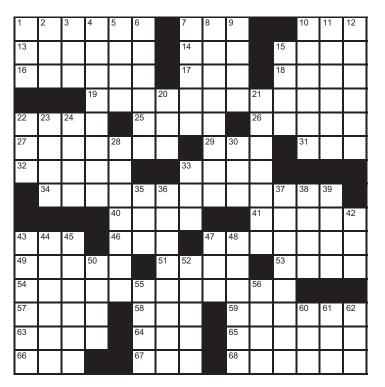
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UP WITH PEOPLE

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- "Motherless Brooklyn" 1 author Jonathan
- Writing form that's a homophone for a word meaning "was short"
- Calendar piece 10
- 13 Anatomical ring
- 14 Gear for crashing
- Crashing_ 15
- 16 With 23-Down, TV host who wrote the autobiography "Born a Crime"
- 17 Tater's swing
- Thyssenkrupp rival
- 19 Resembling the "happy little tree" painter?
- "Frozen 2" character 22 who sings "The **Next Right Thing**"
- "How I feel about it ...," briefly
- 26 Formally abolish
- 27 Lunar event
- Kiev's nat. 29
- 31 101 test graders
- 32 Brett Kavanaugh's alma mater, briefly
- 33 Guesstimates on some GPS apps: Abbr.
- 34 Certain toy cats?
- Element #35 40
- 41 Field daisy
- It may be direct 43 or indirect: Abbr.
- 46 Apple Pay platform
- 47 "Why?"
- 49 Major impact
- Street Fighter 51 fighter ___ Li
- De bene_ (provisionally)
- 54 Acquires a bordello?

- Israeli weapons 57
- James of the NBA 58
- 59 Sponge up Dropped off
- in the mailbox
- Victory symbol
- 65 One with a hammer
- Lit crit maj.
- 67 Letters after Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's name
- Energetic person

Down

1

- Atlas line: Abbr.
- Go wrong
- 3 Redbubble purchase
- Carpool conveniences
- 5 Weena's people
- Rapper Biz
- One of the greatest Black philanthropists in American history
- Horn of Africa nation
- Phil who co-founded the Tampa Bay Lightning, for short
- **Execute perfectly** Record label founded 11
- by Clive Davis
- Approving words
- "Star Trek" villains who assimilate
- Chest pounder, for short
- "We were somewhere around $__$ on the edge of the desert when the drugs began to take hold." (opening line in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas")
- "She Dies Tomorrow" director Seimetz

- See 16-Across 23
- The Big Easy Says "uncle" 28
- _ Von D (tattoo artist) 30
- Squeeze (out)
- 35 Carnival spot 36
- Streaming 37 Is a master of
- 38 Recent converts
- Mozart wrote at least 41 of them: Abbr.
- 42 Shoebox letters
- 43 Hard to understand
- Supremely ballsy
- Faking out on the football field
- 47 Island home
- Readily available 48
- Kiwi's home 50
- 52 Babe
- Abbr. on a street sign 55
- Shopify rival
- 60 Hi, in 35-Down
- Band that almost called themselves Cans of Piss
- "Do you even lift, ___?" (and a hint to this puzzle's theme)

Last Week's Answer

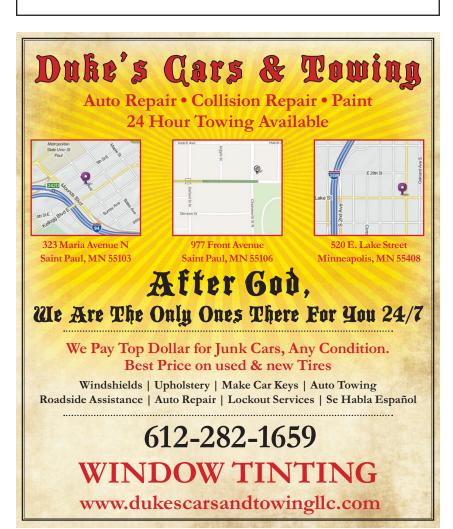


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Married **People**Is it cool to jerk off in my

wife's underwear?

'm a bi man in a straight marriage who has two young children. My wife and I have been working through some relationship issues, and because of them, our marriage has been essentially sexless for 18 months. I'm not happy with this, but we're working on things.

Since we stopped having sex, I've been using my wife's used panties to masturbate. I work from home and do the laundry. Every few weeks, I take her panties out, rub myself with one pair, and sniff the other. I enjoy the way the fabric feels and get turned on knowing they've been rubbing against her pussy. I ejaculate into her panties, then rinse them out and wash them. I'm careful not to stain or damage them. It's something I do to feel more connected with her sexually.

I don't get hard thinking that she's wearing panties I came in; I get hard thinking about coming in panties she's worn. But I worry that I'm violating her—which I don't want to do. I know if I were doing this with the panties of someone I wasn't in an intimate relationship with, it would be wrong. But she's my wife, and though we're in a hard place right now, we're trying to find our way back to each other. Is this an acceptable way for me to get off while we work on our relationship?

WONDERS ABOUT NUZZLING KNICKERS

I'm torn, WANK.

If you and the wife were fucking, she might enjoy knowing that, however many years and two kids later, you're still so crazy about her that you're down in the laundry room perving on her panties. But you aren't fucking and things are strained for reasons you didn't share. So you need to ask yourself whether this perving, if your wife were to find out about it, would set you two back. If you think it would-if your wife isn't fucking you because she feels like you don't respect her opinions, her boundaries, her autonomy, etc.—then $the\ risk\ (further\ damaging\ your\ marriage)$ has to outweigh the rewards (momentarily draining your sack).

That said, if perving on your wife's panties is helping you remain faithful during this sexless period of your marriage and sustaining your attraction to your wife though this difficult time... well, an argument could be made that your wife benefits from this perving. And these aren't stolen



Dan Savage

panties—these are panties your wife hands over to you for laundering. That you derive a moment's pleasure from them on their way from laundry basket to washing machine could be self-servingly filed, I guess, under "what she doesn't know won't hurt her."

But if you feel like your wife would regard this as a violation-and I'm guessing you feel that way, WANK, since you're asking me about it and not her-then you might wanna knock it off.

Quick question: Why get married? I'm a 29-year-old lesbian who got married to a woman at 26 and divorced at 28. We had a pretty low-key wedding, but we still stated to all of our friends and family that we were in it for the long haul, people wished us well, bought us gifts, gave us money.

When I realized it was a huge mistake (we rushed into it, we ignored huge incompatibilities), I felt terrible for all the usual reasons involved in a breakup, Dan, but I also felt like we were letting down our friends, family, and all gays everywhere. I'm jaded right now, but seriously: WHY DO THIS? Why get married? Why do this thing that adds so much stress and pressure to leaving a relationship that might have run its course, as MOST relationships eventually do?

MARRIAGE-AVERSE DYKE

Quick answer, MAD: People get married for love-ideally, at least these days, and it was not always thus. (Suggested reading: Marriage, A History: How Love Conquered Marriage, by Stephanie Coontz.) Sometimes I think people marry for the same reasons you think no one should, MAD: The pressure to stay in a marriage often prompts a couple to work through a rough patch. Of course that pressure can keep two people together who really shouldn't be, but sometimes two people stick it out to avoid the embarrassment, expense, and drama of divorce and eventually get to a place where they're happy to still be together. Maybe a wedding isn't a promise that two people will stay together forever, but that they'll think long and hard before parting.

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Self-executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use: By this Copyright Notice, both the juristic person and the agent of said juristic person, hereinafter jointly and severally "User," consent and agree that any use of ELLIOTT JAMES KERBY® other than authorized use as set forth above constitutes unauthorized use, counterfeiting, of Secured Party's common-law copyrighted property, contractually binds User, renders this Copyright Notice a Security Agreement wherein User is debtor and Elliott James Kerby® is Secured Party, and signifies that User: (1) grants Secured Party a security interest in all of User's assets, land, and personal property, and all of User's interest in assets, land, and personal property, in the sum certain amount of \$500,000.00 per each occurrence of use of the common-law-copyrighted trade-name/ trademark ELLIOTT JAMES KERBY©, as well as for each and every occurrence of use of any and all derivatives of, and variations in the spelling of, ELLIOTT JAMES KERBY, plus costs, plus triple damages; (2) authenticates this Security Agreement wherein User is debtor and Elliott James Kerby© is Secured Party, and wherein User pledges all of User's assets, land, consumer goods, farm products, inventory, equipment, money, investment property, commercial tort claims, letters of credit, letterof-credit rights, chattel paper, instruments, deposit accounts, accounts, documents, and general intangibles, and all User's interest in all such foregoing property, now owned and hereafter acquired, now existing and hereafter arising, and wherever located, as collateral for securing User's contractual obligation in favor of Secured Party for User's unauthorized use of Secured Party's common-law-copy righted property; (3) consents and agrees with Secured Party's filing of a UCC Financing Statement in the UCC filing office, as well as in any county recorder's office, wherein User is debtor and Elliott James Kerby© is Secured Party; (4) consents and agrees that said UCC Financing Statement described above in paragraph "(3)" is a continuing financing statement, and further consents and agrees with secured Party's filing of any continuation statement necessary for maintaining Secured Party's perfected security interest in all of User's property and interest in property, pledged as collateral in this Security Agreement and described above in paragraph "(2)", until User's contractual obligation theretofore incurred has been fully satisfied; (5) consents and agrees with Secured Party's filing of any UCC Financing Statement, as described above in paragraphs "(3)" and "(4)," as well as the filing of any Security Agreement, as described above in paragraph "(2)," in the UCC filing office, as well as in any county recorder's office; (6) consents and agrees that any and all such filings described in paragraphs "(4)" and "(5)" above are not, and may not be considered, bogus, and that User will not claim that any such filing is bogus; (7) waives all defenses; and (8) appoints Secured Party as Authorized Representative for User, effective upon User's default re User's contractual obligations in favor of Secured Party as set forth below under "Payment Terms" and "Default Terms," granting Secured Party full authorization and power for engaging in any and all actions on behalf of User including, but not limited by, authentication of a record on behalf of User, as Secured Party, in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate, and User further consents and agrees that this appointment of Secured Party as Authorized Representative for User, effective upon User's default is irrevocable and coupled with a security interest. User further consents and agrees with all of the following additional terms of Self-executing Contract/Security
Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use: Payment Terms: In accordance with fees for unauthorized use of ELLIOTT JAMES
KERBY© as set forth above, User hereby consents and agrees that User shall pay Secured Party all unauthorized-use fees in full within ten (10) days of date Invoice is sent, User shall be deemed in default and: (a) all of User's property and property pledged as collateral by User, as set forth in above in paragraph "(2)," immediately becomes, i.e. is, property of Secured Party; (b) Secured Party is appointed User's Authorized Representative as set forth above in paragraph "(8)"; and (c) User consents and agrees that Party is appointed user's Authorized Representative as set forth above in paragraph (8); and (c) User consents and agrees that Secured Party may take possession of, as well as otherwise dispose of in any manner that Secured Party, in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate, including, but not limited by, sale at auction, at any time following User's default, and without further notice, any and all of User's property and interest, described above in paragraph "(2)," formerly pledged as collateral by User, no property of Secured Party, in respect of this "Self-executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use," that Secured Party, again in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate. Terms for Curing Default: Upon event of default, accepted the house place" [In Party II Tomasses for the Advanced Contract as set forth above under "Default Terms," irrespective of any and all of User's former property and interest in property, described above in paragraph "(2)." in the possession of, as well as disposed of by, Secured Party, as authorized above under "Default Terms," User may cure User's default only re the remainder of User's said former property and interest property, formerly pledged as collateral that is neither in the possession of, nor otherwise disposed of by, Secured Party within twenty (20) days of date of User's default only by payment in full. Terms of Strict Foreclosure: User's non-payment in full of all unauthorized-use fees itemized in Invoice within said twenty- (20) day period for curing default as set forth above under "Terms for Curing Default" authorizes Secured Party's immediate non-judicial strict collateral by User, now property of Secured Party, which is not in the possession of, nor otherwise disposed of by, Secured Party upon expiration of said twenty- (20) day default-curing period. Ownership subject to common-law copyright and UCC Financing and Security agreement filed with the UCC filing office. Record Owner: Elliott James Kerby®, Autograph Common Law Copyright ® 1986. Unauthorized use of "Elliott James Kerby" incurs same unauthorized-use fees as those associated with ELLIOTT JAMES KERBY©, as set forth above in paragraph "(1)" under "Self-executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use.

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Volunteer Opportunities: Response to COVID-19 In order to support community needs created by the Coronavirus outbreak, HandsOn Twin Cities has created a special Volunteer Hub with opportunities and guidelines for volunteering.

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required. Vehicle (mini-van or smaller) provided. https://www.mbc.org/

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